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# Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 16 | Humidity 85% Fog/mist in the morning and mainly clear sky later Sensex 57,315 | Nifty 17,072 | Gold 49,480 | Silver 62,300 | Dollar 75.23 | Euro 85.09 | GBP 100.71

## BM asked urbanists and various stakeholders in the city what they felt about Chief Minister's CBD revamp plan

# MULTIPLICITY

## Band-aid on critical issues, say activists

Melvin Mathew
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The urbanists in Bengaluru felt there is no longer just one Central Business District but there are multiple CBDs interspersed across the city.

The activists' reaction was prompted by the Chief Minister's recent announcement of a pivotal revamp of the Central Business District (CBD) 'to make it a model area'.

According to the CM, police officials in the CBD will get new uniforms and existing traffic signals will be upgraded.

The citizen activists, however, are of the view that CBD has been receiving undue attention while failing to address key concerns.

"The adaptive traffic mode shall calculate the on-road vehicle count and accordingly the timing of the signal and signages will be influenced. KRDCL is calling for tenders," west DCP Kuldeep Jain said.

"Bengaluru needs to be decentralised for better governance. From the time BMP became BBMP, the outer areas have been neglected. Instead of bridging the gap between old CBD and new CBDs — Sarjapura, Mahadevapura, Whitefield — the political class is not seeing beyond the Vidhana Soudha. We want Bengaluru to have equitable growth," said Srinivas Alavilli of Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy.

Activists feel the revamp is just a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

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# Anti-conversion Bill passed in K'taka Assembly

Amid much ruckus by the Opposition, the Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Thursday passed the Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, 2021 commonly known as the anti-conversion Bill. The Bill will provide for the protection of the right to freedom of religion and prohibition of unlawful conversion from one religion to another by misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement or by any fraudulent means. It proposes imprisonment of up to 10 years for forced religious conversion.

In the Assembly, JC Madhuswamy, State Law and Parliamentary Affairs minister, said that this Bill was actually initiated by the Siddaramaiah-led government in 2016. Siddaramaiah alleged that the drafted Bill prepared in 2016 was completely different from what the current state government has drafted in 2021.

State Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai speaks during a discussion at the Assembly on Thursday

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai added: "We know the situation of SC and ST. They are ignored and remain vulnerable. Our intention behind bringing this Bill is to protect SC, ST communities and women." K S Eshwarappa, Karnataka Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister said, "We all are from the RSS and RSS taught us to save this country, religion and culture. That's why we have got this bill from that culture." **– ANI**

## Statue of St Anthony vandalised in Chikkaballapur

A statue of St Anthony was vandalised at a church in Sosaipalya in Chikkaballapur on Thursday morning. The incident came to light when a few people visited the church and noticed that the glass box where the saint's statue was kept inside was vandalised. They then observed that the saint's head was broken and taken away. They immediately informed the priest who rushed to the spot and in turn informed the police after which, he filed a complaint.

The Chikkaballapura police have registered a case and initiated investigation to identify the culprits. The police have also increased patrolling at religious places across the district to ensure law and order, a senior police officer said. This is the eleventh such incident of attacks that had happened on churches across the state since September this year.

According to a report by the People's Union of Civil Liberties (PUCL) there has been 39 instances of attacks on members of the Christian community this year. The report was based on information collected from the 39 pastors who were witnesses to each of the incidents. However, there are many other cases that have gone unreported, the report said.

The report also stated that in most of the cases, the police have colluded with the fringe groups who target churches and stop them from organising prayer meetings.

With the anti-conversion Bill being passed in the State Assembly, this would only make matters worse for the community, a priest from a church in Bengaluru said. **– Bellie Thomas**

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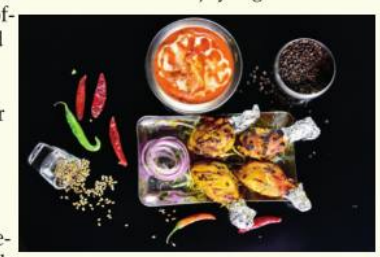
## 4 THINGS TO DO

### 01 Foodies, unite

The Amazon Great Foodie Fest is back in Namma Bengaluru! During this food festival, customers will be able to enjoy a great number of offers and cashbacks on their orders from over 5,500 hygiene-certified restaurants across the city. Customers can participate in a one-of-a-kind inter-neighbourhood face-off. Every member of the winning team will get a cashback of RS 1000. Customers can get a sneak peek into the making of signature dishes from renowned restaurants across Bengaluru.



**Where: Amazon app; When: Till Dec 26**

### 02 Remembering Rafi Saab

Attend Rafi Revived 10, a grand musical concert to celebrate the 97th birthday of the legend Mohammad Rafi Saab. This will be a special musical tribute by the sensational Biju Nair, along with talented singers Vikram Dixit, Aishwarya Kasinathan, Niyazuddin Niyaz and Rajasree Saha. Hosted by Sanjay Singh, the music will be arranged by Pradeep Patkar.

**Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleswaram; When: Dec 24, 6 pm**
**Tickets: Rs 300 onwards, bookmyshow.com**

### 03 All for the paws

In the spirit of Christmas, Heads Up For Tails is inviting people to donate their pet's pre-loved items/buy new products at our stores to donate at discounted prices. Collect all your pet's pre-loved items that are in good condition and drop them off at your nearest HUFT store. The pre-loved items/ new products bought at the stores will further be passed on to Charlies Animal Rescue Centre to help the furry friends in need. So, open your hearts and your pet's closet to our furry friends in need. **Where: All HUFT stores in Bangalore When: Till Dec 31**

### 04 Festive shopping

Check out New Crafts's Silk India 2021, an exhibition which brings together rural weavers from different parts of India featuring vast collections of handlooms, dress materials, West Bengal cotton sarees and many more. Find silver jewellery, kundan and meenakari, textiles, handmade paper, precious and semi-precious stones, paintings, leatherwork, hand-crafted items like wood, ivory, lac, glass, brass, silver and gold and much more. **Where: Sindhoor Convention Centre, JP Nagar 1st Phase; When: Till Dec 26**
**Call: 8850902824**

# TC tug-of-war halts education

## Pvt schools don't issue certificate without dues being paid, so kids can't shift to govt schools

| Pragna L Krupa
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

KAUSHIK JN

Shanthakumar, a polio-affected auto driver, had to stop the education of his son and daughter as he cannot afford the fees

The pandemic has upended the life of 45-year-old Shanthakumar, a polio-affected auto-driver. The livelihood of this KG Halli resident was affected to such an extent that he struggled to even get two square meals a day, but now the hope that he had in his children's future has also been snatched away from him.

Unable to afford the fee of the private school they are attending, he had to make the tough decision of transferring them to a government school. But the school has refused to issue the transfer certificates (TC) for his son and daughter till he clears the dues of Rs. 25,000 for the previous year. Without the TCs, the children have had to stop their education altogether. Shanthakumar's children were unable to attend online classes last year as they did not have smartphones, but the school is asking for the fee for that year.

Like him, many from the unorganised sector were affected due to the pandemic which has resulted in them having to discontinue their children's education.

Recently, the State Government had issued directions to Block Education Officers to issue TCs to children wishing to move out of private schools if parents file an application. The circular issued by Commissioner of Public Instruction Vishal R stated that parents who have withdrawn admission of their children from the private unaided schools should approach the school for a TC. School managements must issue TC within a week and parents can file a complaint before the jurisdictinal BEO if there is a delay and the BEO should ensure they get the TC. The order was issued after many parents turned to the government seeking help as private schools were forcing them to pay fees to issue a TC.

This order, however, has not made any change in Shanthakumar's situation. Shanthakumar had met with an accident six years ago and his polio-affected leg was severly injured. Despite this, he had never wanted to compromise on his children's education so he put his 13 and 14-year-old kids in a private school. But after the pandemic, when classes went online, his children could not attend classes. "Now that school has resumed, we decided to get the children admitted to a government school as we cannot afford to pay a fee of Rs. 50,000 that includes last year's dues. Though my children have not attended online classes, the school is demanding that we pay Rs. 25,000 for the previous year and are not agreeing to issue TCs till then. So their education had to be stopped," he said.

He said that earlier he used to work as a cobbler and started to drive the auto about three years ago. "I take the auto on rent for Rs 220 a day but I haven't been able to pay the auto rent and have dues of Rs. 6,000," he said.

> **The government can also be of help to such kids by reimbursing the amount under Right To Education so that the private schools are not scammed**
>
> –D Shashi Kumar, KAMS

Despite the government order, schools too are finding it tough to issue TCs due to some cases. D Shashi Kumar, general secretary of Associated Managements of Private Schools in Karnataka (KAMS) said in some cases, the TC was being misused. According to him, some families that can afford the fee are asking schools to waive off last year's fee and claiming that they want to send their children to government schools but after getting the TC, they get the kids admitted to another private school. "There are many parents who have not paid the fee from before the pandemic and now are trying to hide behind this excuse, expecting a 100 percent waiver, which cannot happen. In many schools, over 300 students have not paid fees and schools even had to shut down. Many teachers and staffers were not paid," he said. He said the only way is to identify which cases are genuine and schools can agree to a 60-80 per cent waiver to issue TC.

"The government can also help such kids by reimbursing the amount under Right To Education so that the private schools are not scammed and only genuine cases get benefits," he said.

## BENGALURU

### B'luru man held for threats to Aditya Thackeray

The Mumbai Police have picked up a Bengaluru-based youth on charges of sending threatening messages to Aditya Thackeray, Maharashtra Minister for Tourism, Environment and Protocol, police sources said on Thursday. According to police, the arrested youth is identified as Jaisingh Rajput. The accused had called up Aditya, son of Maharashtra Chief Minister Udhav Thackeray. Police said that the accused was a fan of late actor Sushanth Singh Rajput. He called up Aditya on December 8. When his calls were not answered, he sent threatening messages. The accused was arrested by the Mumbai cyber police and taken to Mumbai on transit remand. The accused is being questioned by the police presently. The police have booked him for defaming, threatening to cause death and grievous injury and they have also booked him under Section 67 of the IT Act. Further investigation is on.

–IANS

### BMTC service for Metro passengers

With Namma Metro extending its timings, BMTC plans to extend its night services to facilitate Metro passengers. "We have introduced night services. Today we heard about increased demand for night services. BMTC will coordinate with BMRCL to provide transportation to the Metro user and will extend our services accordingly," said BMTC MD Anbu Kumar. He added that BMTC has never faced any complaints from passengers and has always heeded the demands of passengers, and will bewilling to add services if needed.

BMTC resumed its night services roughly one month ago as the night curfew was lifted. Seventy bus services across 48 routes were deployed connecting KBS and KR Market to Banashankari TTMC, AGS Layout, Sultanpalya, Uttarahalli, Jambu Savari Dinne, Anjanapura, Kengeri Satellite town, Doddabasti, BEML layout fifth stage, Bidadi, Bengaluru University, Tavarakere, Jalahalli cross, Chikkabanavara, Peenya second stage, Laggere, Nelamangala, Yelahanka, Doddaballapura, Thanisandra, Devanahalli, Sarajapura, Attibele, Bannerghatta zoo, Jigani, Anekal, Kengeri TTMC and other selected routes on Ring Road services.

–BMB

# 175 licences in 1 day: Super-fast RTO or sleight of hand?

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The Koramangala RTO has created a new record! Now, it is anyone's guess whether it is efficiency, express service or something else as 175 driving licences (DLs) were issued from this RTO in a single day. Many may wonder if it is possible to test the driving capabilities of 175 candidates in a single day. A senior official is accused of issuing driving licences without proper verification and tests. The officials must verify the original records of the candidates and examine their driving ability before issuing driving licences.

It takes at least 10 minutes to verify the original records of the candidate, verifying the gear changing, driving, and turning skills and traffic sense, and other skills.

After considering lunch and coffee breaks, it is only possible to assess 96 candidates a day. But a few officials managed to issue driving licences for 175 candidates in a day. Another official in the same office conducted a test for 298 candidates. Each RTO official is given a login ID. RTO and ARTO must work on this ID only. But officials in Koramangala RTO were found to be working using three login IDs to issue driving licences.

Regional Transport Officers distribute the driving licence examination work to the officials regularly. Koramangala RTO (KA-01) was also given that work between December 1, 2020 and August 31, 2021. In all these orders there is no mention of the accused official's name. He voluntarily conducted the tests and issued driving licences. It is the responsibility of the ARTO as head of the driving department to verify the applications and order the concerned officials about the work and managing other office works.

Candidates' documents are verified and their skills tested

> **It seems not even three minutes were given per candidate to test their driving ability and the 175 candidates are said to have been passed in just 480 minutes**

But this officer also gave all these licences on March 29, 2021. On March 30, 78 driving licences, on April 1, 98, and on April 3 conducted tests for 98 candidates and issued driving licences. And also none of the applicants failed. The question is how did a person with such responsible routine office work manage to test all these candidates too.

An RTI application revealed these details: For testing the driving ability, the officials have not even spent three minutes for each candidate.

In 480 minutes, the officials passed 175 candidates. From December 1, 2020, to August 31, 2021, 22,199 candidates attended the driving licence tests. Among them 22,038 passed the test and 161 candidates failed.

The accused official tested and issued driving licences to 11,687 members. When contacted, transport officials only said they would look into the issue.

# MIRROR AUTO

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## Speeding ahead

**Respedit.Bangalore**
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Sports Utility Vehicles or SUVs are a classification of big cars meant for road-going passengers with elements taken from the off-road vehicles. These are pretty popular. So popular, in fact, after supercars, the SUVs are ubiquitous in music videos, signifying the high status of those involved. Yes, SUVs have quickly become somewhat of a status symbol in the country. Yet, that is not without reason. Today's sports utility vehicles are quickly catching up to the hallmarks of luxury and performance of the luxury sedans and supercars. And, the former also provides the buyer with a few more benefits.

### GETTING THERE

We have mentioned music videos. And what are the run-of-the-mill top chart party tracks without stunning scenery? The circling drone shots of enthusiastically gesturing and lip-syncing musicians and extras often happen in mountains or deserts or anywhere usually inaccessible to the general public. And the SUVs in those videos seem right at home. That is because the modern variants mean business. With things like upgraded suspension, traction control, and descent control, you will feel quite comfortable driving off the paved roads in one of these. Just make sure to clean them before shooting the video.

© Getty Images

### ROOMY INTERIORS

When it comes to interiors, no one complains about a lot of space. And no one usually hears people with SUVs complain about interiors. Sports utility vehicles can go most places and keep their driver and passengers comfortable. Along with modern luxury features, the extra room helps. Passengers can sit comfortably, spreading their limbs. Or, you can invite many more people to travel with you, your choice. The fact remains, SUVs are roomy inside, and that is a good thing.

### CINEMA LOOKS

Now, we come to looks. A car's looks play a significant part in whether you will lighten your pockets considerably to buy it. And since SUVs are big cars, you can look at them from considerable distances. Those with unique looks stand out from the crowd no matter how far you see them from, which is kind of the point. Returning to the music video example, SUVs exude a sense of power and style that no other segment can provide. SUVs are tools that are meant to inspire awe. This is in contrast to other family cars that can drive by without you even noticing them.

### GETTING THERE, FAST

A large and powerful-looking frame requires a powerful engine. You're not getting to exotic locations powered by small capacity blocks suitable more for city driving than anywhere else. SUVs have powerful motors to move the big, heavy shell of the car and move it fast and over many a challenging terrain. These make for exciting drives, and you needn't worry about the car running out of grunt when climbing a steep hill or plodding through particularly wet and sticky mud.

### CRUISE IN STYLE

What are status cars without their features? Not much. And SUVs today have features galore. The latest sports utility vehicles pack them all, from high-quality speakers to interactive entertainment consoles and top-of-the-line safety and comfort features. So, not only will you be driving a stylish-looking car, you will be driving in style too. It makes for good video shots inside the vehicle as well.

LIKE MANY PRODUCTS, CARS TOO HAVE DIFFERENT VARIANTS SUITED FOR DIFFERENT NEEDS. HERE ARE SOME THAT MAY SUIT YOURS

## Car of your choice

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Buying a car is an exciting moment for most people. It is, however, important to figure out which car is best suited for us as the type of car we want to buy may not be the most suitable for our lifestyles and choices. It makes better sense to go over the main types of cars available in India.

### HARKING HATCHBACKS

Hatchbacks are typically small segment cars with a hatch-type, vertically opening boot door, giving the class its name. The cars are excellent family vehicles with roomy and comfortable interiors. Moreover, the hatchbacks are also known to have big boot spaces. Their comparatively compact size also makes them great for city driving. Over the years, hatchbacks have evolved into stylish looking, modern cars that look as good, if not better than a few cars from the higher segments. These cars have also seen an increased performance that complements their sporty looks. So, why not take one for a drive?

### SEDAN STYLE

A step above the hatchback, a sedan is a three-box configuration car. This means that the car has three compartments; one for the engine, another for passengers, and the third, for storing luggage. These are usually more luxurious than standard cars and many times, have better performance as well. Sedans also have a low center of mass that makes them less likely to roll over. Moreover, sedans these days come in sleek and classy designs that are an aesthetical treat for the eyes. For a comfortable and safe ride either through cities or on long road-trips, sedans are an excellent choice of vehicle. What's more, you'll be driving in style.

### TERRAIN KING

If you are looking for a vehicle that performs well over both smooth road and gravel, then sports utility vehicles (SUVs) are the perfect option to choose. These cars storm over rough terrain just as easily they cruise on smooth roads. The modern SUVs not only make short work of a variety of terrains but also come with all the amenities and creature comforts that make a drive enjoyable for both drivers and passengers. Adding to that is the increased capacity of most SUVs. This coupled with the stylish and sporty designs these come in, makes the vehicles a perfect platform to explore and travel in comfort.

### BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Combining the rugged build, and interior space and amenities of the SUV and the smooth driving experience of a city car, crossovers are fast gaining popularity. Having the interior space of an SUV is quite convenient if you plan to drive with a larger group of people. The extra boot space that comes with the design is also great for storing more luggage. Moreover, having these amenities while having a better center of mass to avoid rolling over and better maneuverability in cities (where most people use their cars), crossovers aim to provide the driver with the best of both worlds. Also, you certainly won't mind being seen cruising in one with its snazzy SUV styling.

There are other types of cars that you can opt for too. For example, if you want something like a sedan but only sleeker-looking and with more performance; you can go for the coupe. Or, if large passenger-carrying capacity and a very comfortable ride are your priority, the Multi-Purpose Vehicle (MPV) is the car for you. And if durability, power, and high cargo capacity are you what you seek, then pickup trucks will not disappoint.

Car manufacturers these days do their best to include comfort and ease of driving in most types of cars. Yet, each car has its advantages and disadvantages. It is therefore always a good idea to do some research and choose the car that may fit your needs the best. So, look these cars up and bring home your dream wheels.

MARUTI SUZUKI

NEXA

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### CHANGE OF NAME

**I,** Abhilasha W/o Ullas Deshpande R/o Sriram Symphony, Flat no. B908, Tower 4, BCCHS layout, Near Holiday Village Resort, Vajarahalli Bengaluru 560062 have changed my name to ABHILASHA DESHPANDE affidavit Dt.22/12/2021 before notary K.V Mani B'luru

I, Shailesh Jorkar R/o 501 A Block, Manar Elegance, Somasandra Palya, Hsr Layout, Bengaluru 560102 have changed my minor son's name from Aditya to Aditya Shailesh Jorkar for all purposes.

**I,** Lokesha V R/o No-1 66/11 Kw Station Kptcl, Old Madras Road Bengaluru-560016 have changed my minor daughter's name from Shreyaa Yadunandan to Poojitha Shreyaa L

**I,** Sandesh V, R/A ,#15,5th Main,16th Cross N.N.Farm,Rmv 2nd Stage,Sanjaynagar Bangalore 560094,Have Changed My Name To Sandesh Gowda V

**I,** Yahya Hararwala, am changing the name of my minor son from Burhanuddin to Burhanuddin Yahya Hararwala

**I,** Ullas S/o Madhukar Rao Deshpande R/o Sriram Symphony, Flat no. B908, Tower 4, BCCHS layout, Near Holiday Village Resort, Vajarahalli Bengaluru 560062 have changed my name to ULLAS DESHPANDE affidavit Dt.22/12/2021 before notary K.V Mani B'luru

### LOST & FOUND

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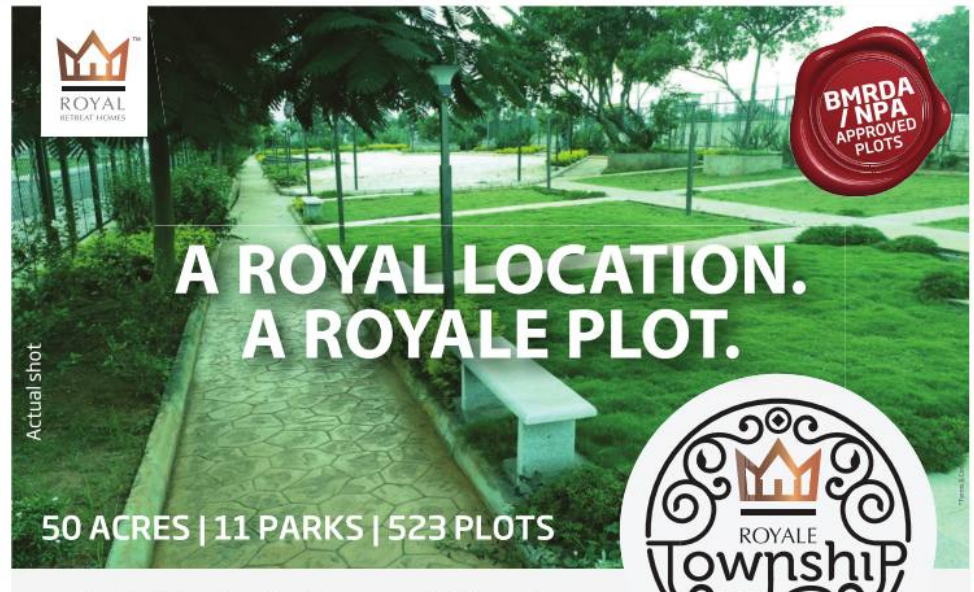
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# 9 new Omicron cases in Karnataka takes tally to 31

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Karnataka on Thursday reported nine new cases of Omicron, taking its tally to 31, Karnataka Health Minister K Sudhakar said. Seven of them are women, including two girls aged nine and 11.

Among the Bengaluru cases, five had a travel history to the United Kingdom and one each had come from Denmark and Nigeria. A 27-year-old man from Mangaluru had come from Ghana, while the nine-year-old girl from Mysuru had returned from Switzerland.

According to Health Department officials, they have been isolated and are undergoing treatment. The rest are asymptomatic. The officials also said that barring the two girls, the rest were vaccinated.

The 49-year-old woman who returned from Denmark had taken two Pfizer vaccine doses and a Moderna booster dose, officials said.

Another UK returnee, a 42-year-old man, had also taken the two shots and a booster dose of AstraZeneca. An 18-year-old woman, who arrived from the United Kingdom, had taken only one dose of Covishield.

## No NY revelry at Nandi

Nandi Hills will be barred for visitors for the New Year. The entry will be blocked from 6 pm, December 30 till 6 am on January 2.

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# Omicron in kids is causing concern

## Twenty per cent of the state's total Omicron cases are children; however, experts say that their symptoms are likely to be mild

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesgroup.com
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A health worker collects a swab sample for testing from a child

With the number of Omicron cases increasing in the state, 20 per cent of the infected are kids, causing health experts and parents to worry.

So far, Karnataka has reported six cases of children infected with Omicron. Four of the cases were from Bantwal from JNV College in Dakshin Kannada. Three girls aged 14 were detected with the variant and a 13-year-old girl was also detected with Omicron in the same district. None of them had any travel history.

In another case, a nine-year-old girl from Mysuru travelled from Switzerland via Abu Dhabi on December 19 and tested positive on Thursday. Further, an 11-year-old female travelled from United Kingdom to Bengaluru on December 18 tested positive with genomic sequencing on December 22.

With over 31 positive cases confirmed, 20 per cent of the cases are of children in the state; experts say that the cases of children might increase, however, the severity of the symptoms would remain mild.

Rakshay Shetty, lead paediatric intensivist, Rainbow Children's Hospital, and member of covid-19 paediatric expert committee said: "The Omicron variant is going to dominate the world in the next six months as it is highly contagious. However, the good news is that, it isn't as severe as the other variants. However, children are definitely going to be susceptible, but going by the first and second wave, children mostly had mild infections and we believe that now also, the situation is going to be the same. And now since the children are not vaccinated, we need to fasten the process of vaccination for them."

Dr Srikanta J T, Consultant, Paediatric Interventional Pulmonology at Aster CMI Hospital, stated that children were at a higher risk of infection but as per data from South Africa and other countries, the symptoms in children were mild and mortality was low as well. "We need to understand people who are getting sicker with Omicron is due to people not getting vaccinated. However, as kids are not vaccinated, they are definitely vulnerable and can get infected. With schools opening, it is definitely a risk for them.

"Any student who comes to school, should submit that their parents have been vaccinated. If parents are vaccinated, there will be less chances of the infection. This apart, even if one covid-19 case is found in schools, the schools need to be shut down," he added.

While the vaccination for children is still to be rolled out, Dr Srikanta stated that the experts are asking for more data for Covaxin for children. "It will take about six months for the vaccines to be rolled out for children and till then, all the covid-appropriate behaviour needs to followed by children," he said.

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# PM Modi holds covid review meeting

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a review meeting on the covid-19 situation in the country on Thursday evening amid rising concerns over the spread of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus.

Official sources said Modi took stock of the situation across the country in a high-level meeting attended by senior officials and experts.

India has recorded 236 cases of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus across 16 states and Union Territories (UTs) so far, out of which 104 people have recovered or migrated, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday.

## Impact on states

- Madhya Pradesh has ordered night curfew from 11pm to 5am.
- Domestic travellers flying into Delhi from states reporting high Covid cases will now be randomly tested at the airport and allowed to leave after giving their sample. Passengers who test positive will need to quarantine at home or a dedicated Covid centre for 10 days.
- The Maharashtra government on Thursday issued fresh directions for Christmas. The government has mandated simple celebrations during Christmas by following all Covid protocols.

— Agencies

# Mysuru-Chennai-B'luru corridor well on course

## Drawings will be prepared on the alignments of the line at areas where it crosses rivers, canals, bridges, roads and highways

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The Chennai-Mysuru line is part of the six corridors including the proposed Mumbai-Ahmedabad line

The preparatory work for the 435 km Mysuru-Bengaluru-Chennai high speed rail corridor project seems to be moving rapidly as the final contract to prepare a detailed project report (DPR) has been awarded. Drawings will be prepared on the alignments of the line at areas where it crosses rivers, canals, bridges, roads, railway lines, highways and other similar facilities, and will also prepare a general drawing of the stations. Work on carrying out a complete mapping of the alignment is already on. The contract is the last of the seven needed to prepare a DPR.

If things go according to the plan and the route is open, trains will travel at 300 kmph-320 kmph on standard gauge lines.

The travel time between the three cities will be reduced to just 1.5 hours. Currently, Shatabdi Express covers the distance in seven hours. Two lines will have to be laid along a fenced corridor that will be 50 metre to 60 metre wide.

Though a final alignment is being prepared, a separate contract has been awarded to a company to map only the terrain where the line has to cross rivers, smaller water bodies and other obstacles because the rules require a thorough study be conducted.

As the speed is high, the terrain and its character around the line, stations and depots needs to be studied before the alignment can be fixed and stations can be designed, said a Railways official. The final alignment is being prepared using LiDAR technology, which helps in mapping the terrain including rivers and small water bodies in 3-4 months, instead of almost a year because a helicopter fitted with sensors will be used to map the terrain. After the DPR and environment impact study is completed, the NHSRC will float tenders for civil work to start construction, said an official.

**If things go according to the plan and the route is open, trains will travel at 300 kmph-320 kmph on standard gauge lines**

The National Rail Plan has fixed an approximate deadline of 2051 for the high speed line. The Chennai-Mysuru line is part of the six corridors including the proposed Mumbai-Ahmedabad and Delhi-Varanasi lines.

# Cops save women from the brink

Bellie Thomas
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TWEETS @Bellie_Mirror

Constable Mahadev from Maddur Police Station prevented the suicide of a woman

Apart from patrolling in their beat areas in their Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) and pursuing investigations and maintaining law and order, these men in khaki often do jobs past their profession... sometimes only on humanitarian grounds.

Head constables Mohan Kumar and Mahadev attached to the Maddur Police Station, in Mandya district, were on patrolling duty in their ERV when they received an alert from the district control room that a woman along with her three children were found near the railway tracks off Maddur Railway Station. A passerby who felt something amiss and suspected that this woman could possibly commit suicide, contacted the control room. Kumar and Mahadev rushed to the spot and found the woman and her children sitting near the tracks. While trying to speak her in Kannada, the cops realized she, hailing from Assam, doesn't understand the language. She kept saying that she did not want to return to her house or to her husband. "With our limited knowledge in Hindi, we communicated with her and her children and learnt that her husband worked with an onion dealer in Maddur town. The two head constables took them to her husband. There, the cops learnt that the couple had frequent arguments and the woman decided to end her and her children's life by jumping in front of a train. The constables counselled the husband and told the woman that she can contact them in case of distress. The cops also informed the woman's brother, who is also working at a village near Maddur town, and apprised him of the developments.

In another instance in Davanagere district, head constables Prabhu Naik HD and Hanumanthappa, both attached to KTJ police station, received an alert from the district control room that an elderly woman had lost her way home. One Kitti spotted the elderly woman wandering aimlessly on Wednesday afternoon and informed the police. The cops rushed to the spot and found out that the woman, Sushilamma (90) was lost and finding her way home. Based on a landmark she mentioned, Naik and Hanumathappa took the woman to the spot where they realised that she frequently wanders in the area. On asking a local, they were told that she comes from a particular area. On taking her there, Sushilamma remembered her address and the cops dropped her home.

Her son and daughter-in-law told the cops that she had gone to a temple after buying puja items and forgot her way back home. The cops counselled the family, saying as she has problems with her memory, someone should escort her every time she leaves home. State police top brass Praveen Sood acknowledged the two instances and lauded them for their extended services.

## whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

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### Fix it soon!
**Horamavu**

Shoddy restoration work at Horamavu Signal Service Road junction has resulted in the bitumen layer wearing off. This has caused a lot of inconvenience among pedestrians and commuters. The authorities need to fix it at the earliest.

### Stray issue
**Vasanth Nagar**

Three stray dogs wander around Ward 93 in Vasanth Nagar, opposite BMTC gate. Residents complain that the dogs bark during the night and chase motorists.

### Cable trouble
**Banashankari**

The sewerage line along 4th Cross, 3rd Main in Block 5 of Banashankari, has damaged due to laying of cables. Most manholes are broken and debris is blocking the flow of sewerage. In some cases, the manholes are sinking and the cables are exposed from the manhole openings. It came to light after the BWSSB workers opened some of the manholes on December 18.

# Why urban revamp should be inclusive

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

band-aid on far serious issues the city is facing at the moment. According to them, the transformation of the current CBD itself should focus on setting better standards for the whole city on factors like walkability, availability of public transport, cleaner environment and other such key factors.

"Bengaluru's CBD is a typical place with high traffic congestion often leading to increased air pollution. In the west, such urban scapes provide space for more vibrant and social spaces that allow pedestrians to walk freely and breathe fresh air. To implement this model, we need to encourage policies and interventions to restrict traffic in these areas and move towards alternative modes of transport while improving public transport," said Dr Ashish Verma, convenor of the IISc's Sustainable Transportation Lab.

"There seems to be an emphasis on 'beautifying' without addressing the underlying infrastructure issues. For instance, drainage or roadside drains seem to be focused on just getting rid of the water with no design for seepage and elevating groundwater levels. Water drained from CBD does not have sufficient outlets in adjoining areas thereby creating back-flows," said Vijayan Menon of the Citizens Action Forum (CAF).

"How much more does the government want to spend on Bengaluru's CBD while the peripheral areas lack even piped water supply and sewerage? The Tender SURE and Smart City works were also mostly concentrated in the CBD. Will changing the police uniforms, putting new signages and traffic signals make it a 'model area' if workers are sitting on garbage and handling it with their bare hands in open garbage tempos? Thanks to lack of hygiene infrastructure. Labourers associated with Smart City work are living under plastic sheets and tin sheds in the CBD due to absence of decent social rental housing," said urbanist Kathyayini Chamaraj.

Deeming the project unnecessary, Sandeep Anirudhan, convenor of Citizens' Agenda For Bengaluru, said: "The revamp of the CBD and Smart City are unnecessary distractions, which further fragments the city administration, leading to more confusion and clashes of jurisdictions. The govt should prioritise devolution and decentralisation of governance by implementation of the 74th Amendment, empowering the Metropolitan Planning Committee, getting rid of all parastatals and integrating all service providers under the BBMP and making the civic body answerable to the elected city council; also make necessary amendments to the BBMP Act to further devolve financial and developmental planning at the zonal and ward Level. The proposed steps are retrograde. To fulfil the spirit and vision of the 74th Amendment, we need to move forward, not backward."

Activists stressed that it is high time to stop spending money for developing just one area. "Bengaluru does not have one CBD alone. People are not coming to Brigade Road and MG Road as they used to. Growth has to be viewed holistically. The outdated notion of a single CBD has to be discarded," said urbanist V Ravichandar.

"The CBD region is just one small part of the ever-growing Bengaluru city. Why is there such a disproportionate focus on areas like CBD that have relatively much better infrastructure than the outer parts of Bengaluru, that are in shambles? Moreover, the city is facing real policy issues. Cosmetic changes like uniform tweaks and traffic signal upgrade are a waste of time and money. It's time that projects and works are chosen scientifically and backed by data and long-term policy," said Rishvanjas Raghavan, BNP youth wing president.

**"How much would the govt spend on CBD while suburbs lack piped water supply and sewerage? Will changing police uniforms make it a 'model area' if workers are sitting on garbage and handling it with their bare hands?**

— Kathyayini Chamaraj, urbanist

PAGE 12 ED to seize all costly gifts?

FROM TODAY
LNT CINEMAS
SRINIVASA ♦ BALAJI ♦ LAKSHMI
DOLBY ATMOS 4K | AIR CONDITION S.G.PALYA, BENGALURU
DOLBY ATMOS 4K | AIR CONDITION TAVAREKERE, BENGALURU
DOLBY ATMOS 4K | AIR CONDITION TAVAREKERE, BENGALURU
Thalli Pogathey (Tamil) 10:00am, 4:00pm
WRITER
Writer (Tamil) 1:00pm
Spiderman No Way Home (English 3D) 7:00pm
Micheals coffee house (Malayalam) 10:00pm
83 (Kannada 2D) 10:00am
Badava Rascal (Kannada) 1:00pm, 10:00pm
Raider (Kannada) 4:00pm, 7:00pm
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3D
83 (Hindi 3D) 10:00am, 1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm
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83
(IN KANNADA)
A KABIR KHAN FILM
PVR Forum Mall - Koramangala | Orion Mall - Whitefield | MSR Regalia | Phoenix Market City | Spirit Mall | Arena Mall - Nekkundi | VR Mall | Vaishanvi Mall Vega City Mall | Orian Uptown | Garuda Mall - Mysore | Forum City Mall - Mysore
Cinépolis RMM | Orion Mall - Whitefield | ETA Namma Mall - Binneypet Shantiniketan SJR Central Mall | FUN
INOX Garuda Mall | Mantri Square Mall | Central Mall | Value Mall - Whitefield Lido - Ulsoor | Manipal | Jaynagar | RMZ Mall - Yalahanka | Brokfield | Satyam - Mysore | Garuga Yalahanka | SBP Horizon
GOPALAN Innovation Mall - Bannerghattha Road | Grand Mall C V Raman Nagar Signature | Arch Mall | Legacy
INNOVATIVE MULTIPLEX [Outer Ring Road], ABHINAY [Gandhinagar], SHOBHA [Bangalore], URVASHI [Bangalore], SHANKARNAG [Bangalore], VAIBHAV [Bangalore], CAUVERY [Bangalore], VINAYAKA [Bangalore], VEERESH [Bangalore], VICTORY [Bangalore], PUSHPANJALI [Bangalore], PRITHVI [Bangalore], SHARADA [Bangalore], MAURA CINEMAS [Mangalore], ROCKLINE [Mangalore], INNOVATIVE [Mangalore], KINO [Mangalore], HMT [Bangalore], MOVIE TIME [Davangere], ARUNA [Davangere], TRISHUL [Devangere], DRC [Mysore], VISION [Mysore], BHARATH BIG CINEMA [Mangalore], THE CINEMA, BHARATH BIG CINEMA [Manipal], BHARATH THEATRE [Shimoga], VEERBHADRESHWARA [Shimoga], BHARATH THEATRE [Kundapura], LAKSHMI [Teverekere], KRISHAN [Tumkur], MAHAVEER [Mandya], PICTURE PALACE [Hassan], SRI LEKHA [Chikamagalur], LAKSHMI [Hospet], SHIVA [Bellery] and other cinemas.
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BANGALORE PVR CINEMAS FORUM | ORION | VAISHNAVI | VEGACITY | REGALIA | MARKETCITY | VR MALL | UPTOWN | ARENA | SPIRIT | GT MALL | SPI AURA | INOX MANTRI CENTRAL | SWAGATH | LIDO | GARUDA YELAHANKA | GARUDA | BROOKFIELD | FORUM VALUE MALL | RMZ | CINEPOLIS MEENAKSHI | FUN | S J R SPECTRUM | ETA | ORION EAST SHANTINIKETAN | GOPALAN CINEMAS ARCADE | INNOVATIVE | LEGACY | SIGNATURE MINIPLEX | GRAND | INNOVATIVE MULTIPLEX MARATHHALLI | KINO KADUGODI SWAGATH SHANKARNAG M.G.ROAD | SWAGATH POORNIMA J.C.ROAD | HMT CINEMA JALAHALLI | SRINIVASA S.G.PALYA | CAUVERY SANKEY ROAD VINAYAKA D.J.HALLI | BALAJI CINEMA CHIKKALASANDRA | AMRUTH KACHARAKANAHALLI | SIDDHESHWARA J.P.NAGAR | ALSO AT OTHER CINEMAS NEAR YOU

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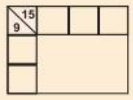
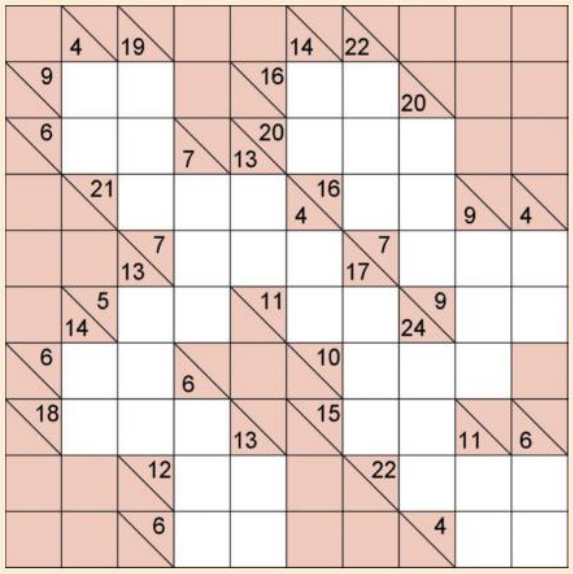
## Kakuro

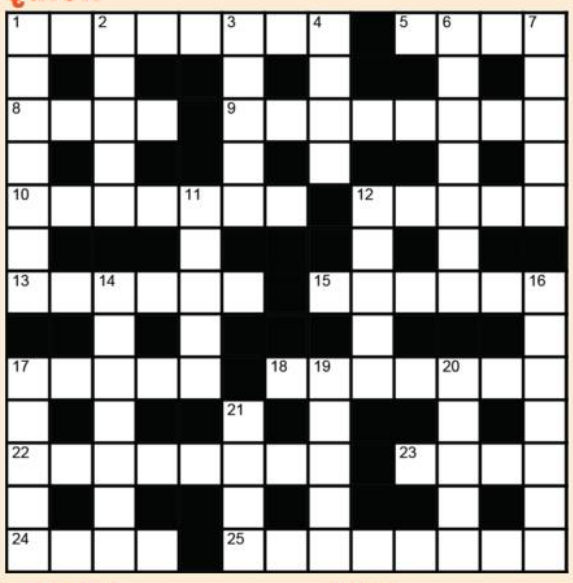
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

1 Vessel repair shop (8)
5 Shirt fastener? (4)
8 Least amount (4)
9 Seppuku (4-4)
10 Effeminate or dandy in nature (7)
12 Chinese corner on Cunningham Road (5)
13 Mythical monster (6)
15 Sets of beliefs or principles (6)
17 Great deeds (5)
18 Expected hopefully (7)
22 Excavating or gathering in? (8)
23 Church part (4)
24 An amount of medicine (4)
25 Swords or bayonets or pistols? (8)

**DOWN**

1 Used the nose to express contempt! (7)
2 __ ___ form: in good nick (2,3)
3 Hurts (5)
4 Filth (4)
6 Testimonial (7)
7 Passing away (5)
11 Religious images (5)
12 Papal council (5)
14 Athletic or gigantic women (7)
16 Sorrow or unhappiness (7)
17 Melted with intense heat? (5)
19 Carried on war etc.? (5)
20 Hoglike animal (5)
21 Lubricates with a liquid (4)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: J EQUALS G**

PI RHC SLWLGX RHCS VLZSLOV OH OYL QPKA RHC VYHCXA KHO NXGUL OYL QPKA IHS SLWLGXPKJ OYLU OH OYL OSLLV.

## Linemaro

I'm not very good at remembering faces, but for you I'll make an exception

## Mindchow

Worry is like a rocking chair; it keeps you busy, but gets you nowhere

## Joke of the day

It used to be only death and taxes were inevitable. Now there's shipping and handling too

## Loop

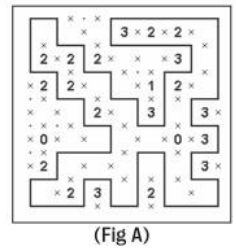
**Rules**

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

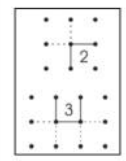
**How to begin:**

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

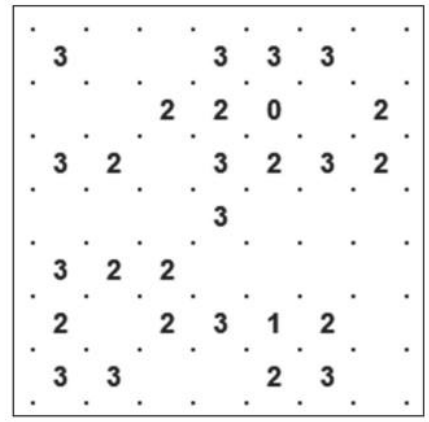
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



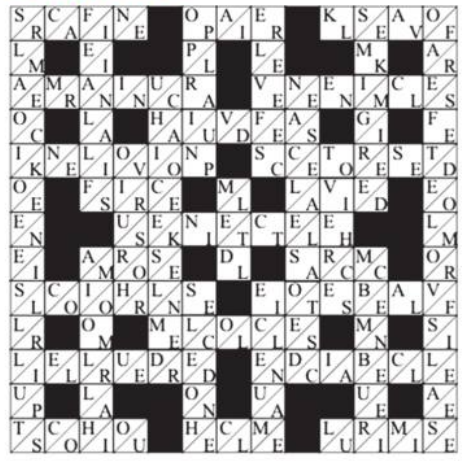
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 K | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | | | | |
| 7 | | | | |
| 8 | | | | |
| 9 | | | | |

**ACROSS**

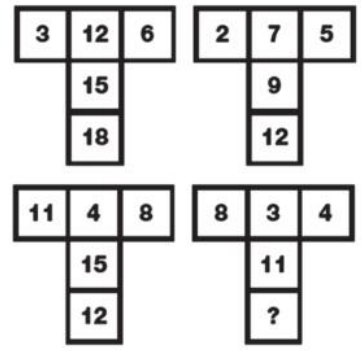
1 Ask ta; 6 U-boat; 7 Dun an; 8 Acids; 9 Hooks

**DOWN**

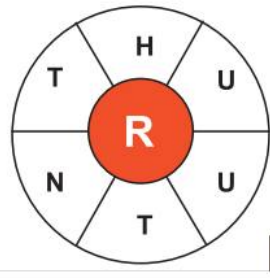
1 Ask an; 2 Sabah; 3 No dot; 4 I a duo; 5 Tucks

## Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?




## Bull's eye




How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

**04** Average; **05** Good; **06** Outstanding

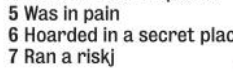
## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 8 | 6 | | | | | |
| 2 | | | 9 | | | 6 | | |
| | 4 | | 7 | 2 | | | 3 | 9 |
| 5 | | | | | | | 9 | |
| 4 | | 9 | | 1 | | 7 | | 2 |
| | 8 | | | | | | | 6 |
| 6 | 7 | | | 5 | 8 | | 1 | |
| | | 1 | | | 7 | | | 8 |
| | | | | | 6 | 5 | | |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



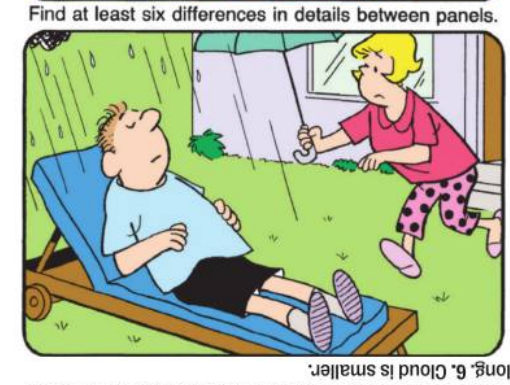
**Easy** = 2
4 4 5 7

**Medium** = 34
2 2 2 9

**Hard** = 46
4 7 8 7

## Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



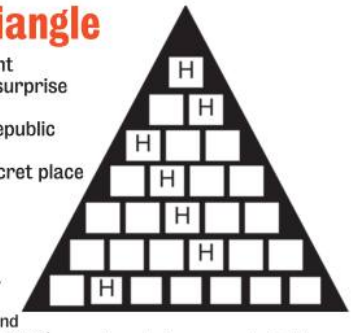
**Differences:** 1. Leg is moved. 2. Umbrella handle is smaller. 3. Hair is different. 4. House is wider. 5. Cushion is not as long. 6. Cloud is smaller.

## Riddler

I have two arms and a back, Supported by four legs. But there is something I do lack, Actually, I have no eyes to see. I also cannot move around, Or at least, not on my own. Unfortunately I can make no sound, Except perhaps a squeak. If you chop off my head, You are left with a hair. If you chop off my tail, Only tea is left there. One more clue I will add, Is that you often use me. Yet you barely ever notice,In fact I'd much rather be a tree.

## Alpha triangle

1 Planck's constant
2 Exclamation of surprise
3 Used to own
4 North African republic
5 Was in pain
6 Hoarded in a secret place
7 Ran a riskj




Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.


DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

# COMICS

## Redeye by Mel Casson

ANOTHER WILD PARTY, MINNIE?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?!
10/11
I HEARD YOU COME STUMBLING HOME LAST NIGHT
I KEPT TELLING THAT STUPID PINK ELEPHANT TO PICK UP HIS FEET!

## Bizarrotrip

Wayno & Piraro 10-21-21
Nobody ever gives ME permission to go anywhere.
TRAGIC LIGHT
©2021 Bizarro Studios
BIZARRO.COM Dist. by King Features

## Diamond Lil

## Hart of the city

WHOA! A PORTAL!
HEART, WAIT! DON'T WALK THROUGH IT! YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU COULD END UP!
OH, WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?
BLORP
ROLL A D20 FOR RANDOM ENCOUNTERS.
GASP!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2021 JACKIE'S MOMEE
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

## Crankshaft

GOOD NEWS! I GOT OUR HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE REINSTATED!
THEY SAID THEY'D DO IT AS LONG AS WE BUNDLED OUR POLICIES.
SO AS LONG AS WE'RE WILLING TO PAY A BUNDLE...
BATIUK & DAVIS
11-6
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## Mutts

# WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today is a good day for you. You may have a positive environment around you after hearing some good news from siblings. Job seekers may get a good job. Spiritual energy may help you to make the right decision. Your focus towards your goal will be clear now. Students may be able to focus on their studies.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you will feel dull; you may not feel healthy. You are likely to find yourself standing at a crossroads. It is advised to follow your intuition before making some important decisions. It is advised to drive safely and you should avoid adventure tourism. You may criticise yourself and may find it difficult to make some important decisions, which may be a reason for your lack of self confidence. It may affect your social image.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
Today is important in terms of gains. You may get results while putting in less effort. Your losses may convert into profits with the help of your intelligence. You may plan to get into academics. You may donate some amount to a religious site or a charitable organisation. You may also help a needy person. Some investment into intellectual assets may become possible. Students may do better.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
Today, your performance may be very good in your profession. You may have full support of your boss or senior; you are likely to get new opportunities. You may expect a new job also. Job seekers may find a suitable job. Singles will find their love at their workplace.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, your destiny may be with you. You can manage things easily, it may boost your confidence. You may plan a visit to a spiritual place. You are likely to donate some money to a religious activity or to some charity. You may expect a short business trip. Blessings from elders may give you peace of mind. Love birds may get some help from family members in terms of marriage.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel dull or may face some small health-related issues, which may affect your daily routine. You may explore and analyse yourself to figure out your negative points. You may feel alone while sitting in a crowd too; your focus may get lost. In the late evening, with the help of elders, you may overcome this messy situation.

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may get some business orders which may be profitable in the near future. You may implement some new ideas in your work. New partnerships may come into the ground. You may be busy with your work; it may make you mentally tired. It will affect your domestic life .

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you will perform well in your job; your colleagues may cooperate with you. You may be able to complete your postponed projects on time. You may lend money for investment purposes. Job seekers may get a new job. There will be some positive news for the people affected by old health issues.

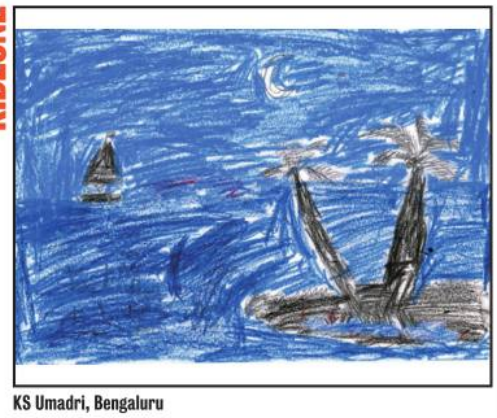
**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, situations are now normal. People around you may now respond to you. But, you are advised not to take life as a burden. You should try to sustain yourself in unavoidable situations. You may face some difficulties in easy gains. Somehow, blessings from elders may help you to come out from this situation. Your confusions in choosing targets may now get over.

**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, tasks will remain incomplete. You may be a victim of mood swings. Your patience may get tested many times; silly mistakes will confuse you to conclude your work. Love birds may find themselves confused in terms of feelings. More expectations may affect your emotional attachment with the spouse. You are advised to take care of your parents. Students may lose their concentration.

**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, with the help of your subordinate staff, you may be able to complete postponed projects. Your network may boost now, which may help you in your work or social life. You may plan to go for an outing with friends or siblings. Some disputes with neighbours may get resolved now. Students are advised to overcome laziness and carelessness.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may spend money on your family issues. It may affect your financial health. You are advised to avoid spending money on worthless things. You may think twice before acting. It is advised to control your straightforwardness to maintain harmony in your domestic and professional life.

## KIDZONE



KS Umadri, Bengaluru

Kaveri Sriram, 7 Years, Indus High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

# SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**
= √¼/100 * √¼/100
=√100/4 * √100/4
=√25 * √25
=5 * 5 = 25

**RIDDLER** A chair

**QUOTE UNCODE**
If you reveal your secrets to the wind you should not blame the wind for revealing them to the trees.

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| K | A | T | A | S |
| A | B | O | U | T |
| N | A | N | D | U |
| A | S | D | I | C |
| S | H | O | O | K |

**BULL'S EYE**
hurt, runt, truth, turn, unhurt, UNTRUTH

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | A | F | E | | P | I | E | | L | E | A | F | | |
| M | I | | L | L | | M | R | | | | | | | |
| A | R | N | I | C | A | | V | E | N | I | C | E | | |
| C | A | | H | I | D | E | S | | G | | E | | | |
| K | E | L | V | I | N | | S | C | O | R | E | D | | |
| O | | S | I | C | | L | A | V | E | | O | | | |
| N | | S | K | I | T | T | L | E | | | M | | | |
| E | M | O | E | | D | A | R | M | | | O | | | |
| S | C | O | R | N | S | | I | T | S | E | L | F | | |
| L | O | | E | C | O | L | E | | M | | S | | | |
| I | L | L | U | D | E | | E | D | I | B | L | E | | |
| P | A | | N | U | | E | | | | A | | | | |
| S | O | H | O | | E | L | M | | U | R | I | S | | |

**QUICK**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | H | I | P | Y | A | R | D | | S | T | U | D | | |
| N | | N | | C | | I | | R | | Y | | | | |
| I | O | T | A | | H | A | R | A | K | I | R | I | | |
| F | | O | | E | | T | | B | | N | | | | |
| F | O | P | P | I | S | H | | C | H | U | N | G | | |
| E | | | | C | | | | U | | T | | | | |
| D | O | R | A | G | O | N | | C | R | E | E | D | S | |
| M | | N | | | | I | | | | | | A | | |
| F | E | A | T | S | | A | W | A | I | T | E | D | | |
| E | | N | | | | | | | | | | I | | |
| S | C | O | O | P | I | N | G | | A | P | S | E | | |
| U | | Z | | O | | A | | | | A | | N | | |
| L | O | | E | C | O | L | E | | M | | S | | | |
| I | L | L | U | D | E | | E | D | I | B | L | E | | |
| P | A | | N | U | | E | | | | A | | | | |
| S | O | H | O | | E | L | M | | U | R | I | S | | |

**MENSA PUZZLE**
7. In each diagram, the sum of the upper left and upper middle numbers is written in the centre box, and the sum of the upper right and upper middle numbers is written in the lower central box.

**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| 2 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 1 |
| 1 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 9 |
| 5 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 4 |
| 4 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 2 |
| 3 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 6 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 3 |
| 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| 8 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 7 |

**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
H, Ah, Had, Chad, Ached, Cached, Chanced.

**GO FIGURE**
Easy
7 – 5 – 4 + 4 = 2
Medium
2 + 2 × 9 – 2 = 34
Hard
8 × 4 + 7 + 7 = 46

**LOOP**

**KAKURO**

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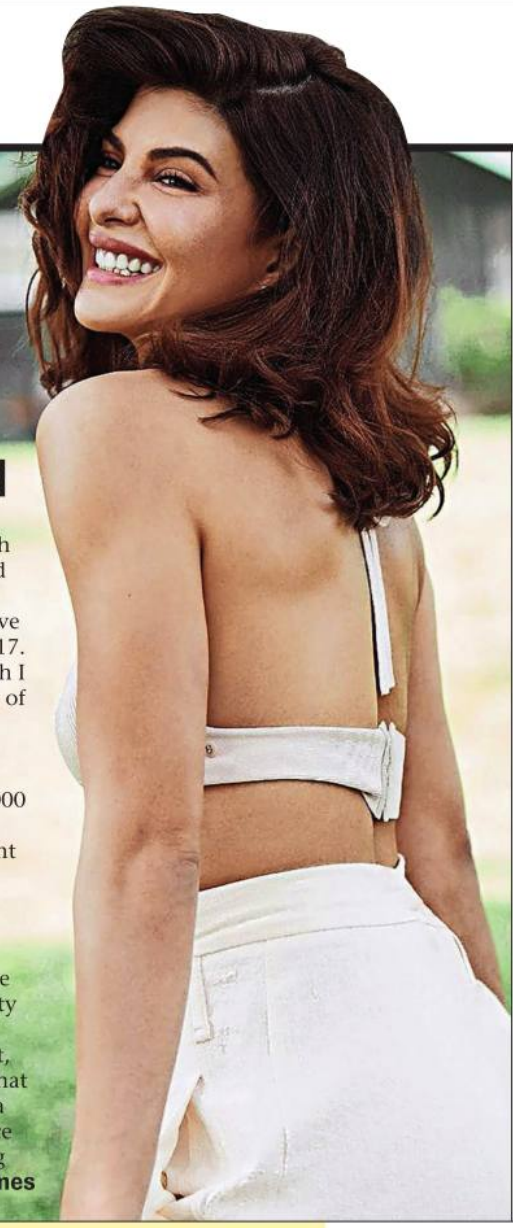
# ED to seize all costly gifts?

## Jewellery, cars, given to Jacqueline to be attached



Jacqueline Fernandez has been in the news for her alleged association with Sukesh Chandrasekhar. The actress was showered with gifts worth crores by the conman, who is being probed by the Enforcement Directorate for his involvement in a Rs 200 crore money laundering case. According to the latest report, the ED is going to seize all the gifts received by the actress. According to India Today, Jacqueline received gifts worth more than Rs 10 crore from Sukesh Chandrasekhar between December 2020 and August 2021.

He had reportedly given Jacqueline two pairs of diamond earrings, two Hermes bracelets, three Birkin bags and a pair of Louis Vuitton shoes. Nora Fatehi also reportedly got a BMW car from Sukesh Chandrasekhar and the same will be seized by the investigating agency.

In her statement, recorded before ED officials Jacqueline stated that she has been in touch with Sukesh Chandrasekhar since 2017 and that the conman had told her that he belonged to late Jayalalithaa's family. "I have been speaking to Sukesh since February 2017. In August 2021, he was arrested, after which I never met him. He told me he is the owner of Sun TV and from the political family of Jayalalithaa," Jacqueline told the ED, reads the charge sheet. Jacqueline has also mentioned her sister took a loan of $1,50,000 from Chandrasekhar and accepted that he transferred around Rs 15 lakh to the account of her brother who lives in Australia.

> **I have been speaking to Sukesh since Feb 2017. In Aug 2021, he was arrested, after which I never met him**

Apart from Jacqueline and Nora, Sukesh Chandrashekhar had also disclosed his association with other Bollywood celebrities like Shraddha Kapoor, Shilpa Shetty and Harman Baweja.

In his disclosure statement, Chandrasekhar had told ED that he knew actor Harman Baweja and was planning to co-produce his next movie 'Captain' starring Kartik Aryan.

—ETimes

# Kareena's covid quarantine essentials

Actor Kareena Kapoor Khan, who is currently in isolation for covid, has shared her quarantine essentials. Kareena on Thursday took to Instagram, where she also updates from the 12th day of her quarantine. She wrote: "I am still trying to figure out if we are in COVID times or not... anyway, day 12...two days to go...stay safe all" in her first Instagram story. Kareena then shared a picture of herself flaunting her pout and wrote: "Pyjama, lipstick and a pout... quite the combination... try it!!"

According to reports, Kareena and a few of her friends, including Amrita Arora, Seema Khan and Maheep Kapoor, contracted Covid last week. Kareena will next be seen in the Aamir Khan-starrer 'Laal Singh Chaddha'. It will hit the big screen on April 14, 2022.

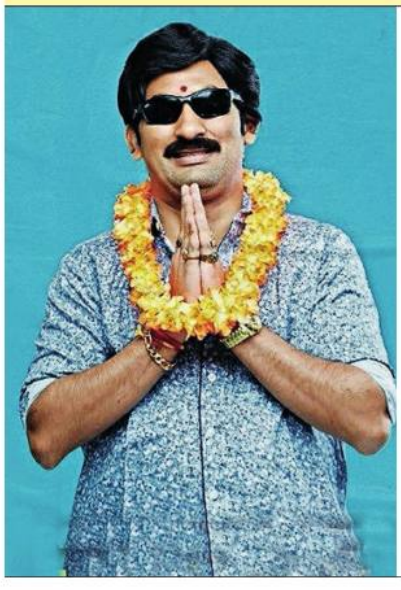
# All's not well in Sush-Ro tale

## A source tells us diva has broken ties with model, who has moved out of her house

Sushmita Sen and Rohman Shawl are one of the most loved couples we have in Bollywood. However, we have recently got to know that all is not well in their paradise.

A source close to the couple has informed ETimes that Sushmita has broken all ties with Rohman and the model has even moved out of her house. Rohman is currently crashing at a friend's place.

Before this, their fans were wondering when the lovebirds would tie the knot with each other. When asked about the same, Rohman, in an earlier interview with Times of India had said, "Sushmita, her daughters (Renee and Alisah) and I are a family already. Sometimes, I am like a father to the kids, sometimes, I am a friend to them, and at times, we fight, too. We live like a normal family, and we enjoy that. So, we don't dwell upon questions like when are you getting married. When marriage happens, we won't hide it. For now, we are enjoying the success of her web series. We will think about the future later." — ETimes



# Nograj to grace web series

The trailer of Kannada actor Danish Sait's web series 'Humble Politician Nograj' is out. Helmed by Saad Khan, the series features Danish Sait, Varun Thakur, Prakash Belawadi, Vinay Chendoor and Disha Madan.

Saad Khan, who directed Kannada film 'Humble Politician Nograj' in 2018, is now coming up with a series of the same name. The film features Danish Sait in the lead role, portraying the titular character of Nograj.

In the trailer of the web series, Danish can be seen reprising his role as Nograj. The story revolves around corrupt politician Nograj and his journey from being an MLA to becoming the Chief Minister of Karnataka.

Director Saad Khan said: "I love observing people, their mannerisms and quirks - obviously in a tactful manner. Real life experiences always help in crafting a character or a story. So while writing our show, the world and the other zany characters around Nograj, I was able to draw from my own observational experiences and add comical traits of all the fascinating people I have met into our narrative. The way Danish embodies Nograj and seeing him perform gave me a canvas to work with and that really helped envision everything else."

—IANS

**Watch this story come alive by pointing your phone camera at the QR code**

## Party girl

Take some inspiration from Vani Kapoor to get ready for New Year eve parties. We pick 10 of her best outfits.